PITTS THEOLOGY LIBRARY is one of the largest theological libraries in North America. With over 610,000 volumes, and over 140,000 volumes in its special collections, the library provides rich resources for the Candler School of Theology and Emory University. The library also provides vibrant instructional, exhibit, digital humanities, and volunteer programs.

From 1915 until 2014, Pitts Theology Library was housed on the quadrangle in the oldest building at Emory. The library’s new location provides state-of-the-art spaces for research and learning, as well as proximity to the classrooms of the Candler School of Theology.
The 16 images on the windows of staff offices reproduce images from the emblem book Het Leerzaam Huisraad (The Instructive Furnishings), written and illustrated by Jan Luiken (1649-1712). Jan Luiken was a 17th century Dutch artist who is mostly known for his approximately 3500 book illustrations. Emblem books were popular in Europe during the 16th and 17th century. Jan Luiken’s twelve emblem books are unusual in that Luiken both drew and etched the images himself, as well as wrote the poems. The Pitts Theology Library’s Digital Image Archive (http://pitts.emory.edu/dia) holds copies of the images, descriptions and poem translations from these emblem books.

JOSEPHINE V. BROWN
Pitts Docent

Pitts Theology Library has seven small group study rooms housed on two floors of the library. Patrons make reservations online using a customized version of the open source software OpenRoom, and key cards are circulated from the circulation desk.

Study rooms on the first floor are named for New Testament figures (Saint Paul, Saint Peter, John the Baptist, and the Madonna), and 2nd floor rooms are named for Reformation era printing presses (Plantin Press, Estienne Press, and Aldine Press). Each room is adorned with a large woodcut image from Pitts’s Digital Image Archive that matches the room’s name.

JENNY VITTI
Reserves & Stacks Specialist, Sr.

John August Swanson is a Los Angeles-based artist specializing in the portrayal of biblical stories and scenes from everyday life. He was born in 1938. Both of his parents were recent immigrants: his mother was from Mexico and his father from Sweden. When the new Theology Building was being planned, Dean Jan Love looked for artwork representing world Christianity for the new building. Prof Don Saliers suggested Swanson, and she was taken by the beauty and storytelling power of his work. With more than sixty pieces on view, Candler School of Theology has the largest public display of Swanson’s artwork. Swanson’s archives at Pitts Theology Library complements the Candler collection.

GINNY CONNELLY
Pitts Docent

The circulation desk, at the entrance to the library, is the main service desk of the library. This desk is staffed by student workers and a Pitts public services staff member all hours that the library is open (see http://pitts.emory.edu/hours). In addition to the circulating the print collection, housed on the first floor of the library, we also circulate technology, including laptops, iPads, and technology accessories. Physical course reserves are also held at the circulation desk. The reference desk, at the center of the second floor, is staffed by one of our three Reference Librarians from 8:30am to 5:00pm all weekdays during the regular Emory semester.

BO ADAMS
Head of Public Services & Systems Librarian

REFERENCES
IMAGES ON GLASS
STUDY ROOMS
SWANSON
FIRST FLOOR: STACKS

BOOK STACKS

Level one of Pitts Theology Library holds the library’s on-site circulating collection of 250,000 books. This collection is stored in compact shelving to maximize shelving efficiency. The theological focus of the library means that while all call number ranges are represented at Pitts, most of the collection extends across the “B” call number ranges. Oversized materials are shelved in a separate area on this level. There are two catalog-based lookup terminals on this level, as well as one printing station and several open and closed study spaces. The book stacks are accessible by two stairwells as well as the main elevator. The first floor also offers quiet study spaces and four small group study rooms.

ANNE MARIE MCLEAN
IL. Specialist

THIRD FLOOR: EXHIBIT GALLERY & MEETING SPACES

EXHIBIT GALLERY

The Pitts Theology Library has a museum-quality exhibit gallery with 1,200 square feet of space, including 22 display cases. The library holds three exhibits per year to introduce visitors to its special collections. The gallery is open during normal library hours, and tours are offered bi-weekly on Friday afternoons and by appointment.

ARMIN SIEDLECKI
Head of Cataloging

&

REBEKAH BÉDARD
Reference Librarian & Outreach Coordinator

LECTURE HALL, GROUP STUDY ROOMS, & RESEARCH CARRELS

The third floor houses several spaces for special events and academic work. Two large group studies, equipped with white boards and a full A/V system, serve as classroom space for Candler courses and Pitts Library workshops. Additionally, this floor is home to the Pitts Lecture Hall, which serves as a welcoming space for special events. The library’s annual Reformation Day at Emory program is held in the lecture hall, as are lectures related to our exhibits. Finally, the third floor also hosts a controlled-access space with study carrels and lockers for students completing theses or dissertations. A hoteling concept is used so that the nine carrels are available twice as many students.

SARAH BOGUE
Reference & Instruction Librarian
FOURTH FLOOR:
SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

The Jeschke-Graham Special Collection Reading Room

The Jeschke-Graham Reading Room was sponsored by Richard and Martha Kessler in honor of the last two Pitts Library directors. It includes work areas for six researchers, WiFi connectivity, a large monitor for digital presentations, reference resources (many from the research library of David Parsons, Grolier Club member and Pitts volunteer and donor), the Wesley pulpit, an oil painting of Martin Luther and associates, and a serigraph by John August Swanson. Lockers for researchers are provided in the hallway outside the reading room, and service for visitors is provided by the special collections reference assistant and by the curator of archives and manuscripts (Monday-Friday: 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.). A processing room and special collections storage are located in areas behind staff offices on level 4.

DENISE MARIE HANUSEK
Catalog Librarian

This large workroom hosts acquisitions, periodical processing, and other back-office functions, and adjacent to it is the library’s conference room and the director’s office.

HANNAH PARKS
Circulation Specialist

The cataloging office provides five workstations for three full-time catalogers and several student assistants, as well as an additional pod of three workstations for volunteers or student assistants. Substantial shelving is also available for current acquisitions, gift books, and a reference library for cataloging staff. Typically, acquisitions of current publications are processed within ten days of arrival. About 4,000 gift books are donated to Pitts each year and are used to supplement current holdings or replace shelf-worn volumes. Gifts not needed by Pitts are sorted and stored by Pitts volunteers and then sold at the Friends of the Pitts Theology Library book sale each spring.

DENISE MARIE HANUSEK
Catalog Librarian